

REMARKS

The Office Action has been carefully considered.

Claims 19-30 are allowed. Claims 17, 18, 32 and 33 are objected to by the Examiner and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 17, 18, 32 and 33 have been rewritten in independent form and are believed to be allowable.

A Terminal Disclaimer to obviate the rejection of claims 31 and 34 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,118,795 is enclosed. Therefore, claims 31 and 34 are believed to be allowable.

Claim 16 is also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Uematsu et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,751,720. Claim 16 has been herein amended to more clearly define the invention over the prior art.

According to claim 16, as amended, a pointer contained in a transmission frame includes one or more channel frames and a frame identification section performs identification processing by monitoring a change in a pointer processing result of the pointer processing section for each of the channel frames to identify a frame size of the transmission frame, based on a monitored pointer processing result.

Thus, the present invention, as claimed, can accurately identify the frame size even if the received pointer has an error.

Uematsu et al. teaches a pointer processor which has a pointer processor. The Examiner equates the AU-size Map Matching circuit 26 with the Applicant's frame identification means. Uematsu et al. fails to disclose or suggest a frame identification section which monitors a change in a pointer processing result of the pointer processing section for each channel frame and

identifies a frame size of the transmission frame based on the monitored pointer processing result.

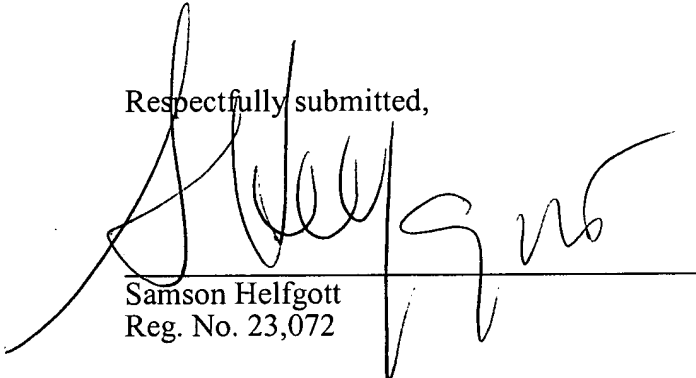
Every effort has been made to place this application in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are most respectfully solicited.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 50-1290 the sum of \$344.00 for four (4) additional independent claims in excess of the three (3) independent claims covered by the filing fee paid.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper, not fully covered by an enclosed check, may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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